news | entertainment | people | sport

FREE

Crewkerne
WEEKENDER

Issue 15 January 7 2011

'EVENING ALL!

Stacey Wyeth and Dani Basher were among the few seriously dedicated partygoers on New Year's Eve in Crewkerne

Getting their hands dirty - page 14

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see pages 12 and 13

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weekenderannouncements

Steven Rathbone,
18
Happy 18th Birday on 10th Jan. With lots of love, Mum, Dad, Richard and Vicky

Congratulations Lucie and Ryan on the birth of Oscar on 19th Dec. Much love from Nana and Grandad xx

Aidan Williams,
9
Happy 9th Birthday lots of love Mum, Dad and Ethan x

To our darling Abigail
3
Happy 3rd Birthday for the 31st. Lots of Love, Mummy and Daddy xx

Adders,
3
Happy 3rd Birthday to the best little sister ever! Lots of love, Jessie xx

Happy 40th Birthday to
Nik Edwards
40
for 3rd of January.
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weekenderweather

Friday 7th Jan	Saturday 8th Jan	Sunday 9th Jan	Monday 10th Jan
Rain High 9° Low 2°	Light Rain High 8° Low 3°	Mostly Sunny High6° Low 1°	Rain High 4° Low 1°

Tuesday 11th Jan	Wednesday 12th Jan	Thursday 13th Jan
Light Rain High 6° Low 2°	Light Rain High 7° Low 4°	Light Rain High 7° Low 3°

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Crewkerne And District Astronomical Society

Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society was formed in 2002 with around 24 members. The society now has a membership of nearly 40.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month starting at 7.30 pm at St Bartholomew's Church Hall in Crewkerne and are open to all. No previous experience or knowledge of astronomy is required. If you are generally interested in 'what's up there', or would like to know where to start in astronomy you will be particularly welcome. Of course, experienced astronomers are welcome too.

One of the main aims of the Society is to 'spread the word' and to share our own interest and pleasure in astronomy with others. We have telescopes for the use of members who can also use our library.

Next Meeting at 7.30pm, Wednesday 19 January, at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Abbey St, Crewkerne.

▲ Pete Ashtead from our observing site using a DSLR.

Chinese game that nearly caused new year fireworks!

By Marion Draper

CREWKERNE girl Sharon Rossi got a little more than she bargained for at the airport when returning home after a Christmas visit to her parents, when an innocent purchase almost made her miss her flight.

Mrs Rossi, who now lives in Scotland, always enjoys scouring the local shops when she returns to her home town for a visit. She was delighted to find a1930s Mah-jong set in the antique shop which she bought for husband Paul whose birthday was on New Year's Day.

When she headed home with her prize via Bristol airport, she decided to leave the Chinese gaming set out of her luggage thinking it may look odd on the x-ray machine. However, when the set went through in its green plastic bag, she became increasingly aware of concentrated looks from the security staff. The next thing she knew she was being told the items tested positive for explosives.

She said: "I was so embarrassed, I was waiting and waiting and they kept looking at me, then this girl asked me if it was mine. She said the bag and the set both tested positive on two counts, they were very nice to me the whole time. They asked me where I bought it and went through the rest of my things and took a bunch of details but they still let me take it on the plane.

"I was there about 45 minutes so it was a good job I had got there early for my flight. I did point out to them that it was from the 1930s and something that old could have been stored next to all kinds of things at some point. It was in a leather case with two sets of English instructions so I think it had probably been in the country some time.

"The experience wasn't fun but not particularly scary as they were being so pleasant, just highly embarrassing. I said to them that I was pleased they were being so careful."

On her return, Mr Rossi was delighted with his present although unable to enjoy it for a few days as he went down with the flu on his birthday. Happy New Year indeed.

■ WHO KNOWS? Sharon Rossi stopped at the airport with a Chinese Mah-jong set

Crewkernenews

Stargazing

CREWKERNE and District Astronomical Society are taking part in the BBC2 Stargazing Live programmes by hosting two events this month.

On Sunday, January 9th, at 7pm the public are invited to join their local astronomers for a tour of the winter skies at the Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay BA6 9TT .

If the conditions are unfavourable there will be a slide presentation. Registration is required ron@qubit.myzen.co.uk or 01278 722518.

On Wednesday, January 12th, from 7.30-9pm there will be an illustrated talk and introduction to stargazing with a chance to observe the night sky, weather permitting, at St Bartholomew's Church Hall in Abbey Street.

Suitable for ages eight upwards, children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults £1, children free. Booking essential mikeholland@yahoo.co.uk or 07833 478419.

Praise for head

WADHAM School's headteacher, David Derbyshire, paid tribute to his colleague Maiden Beech, headteacher John Broad, who retired at Christmas.

Speaking in the Wadham newsletter he said: "I wanted to mark John's retirement as headteacher of Maiden Beech School after 19 years of service by recording my personal thanks and those of all of us here for all the support he has given to Wadham School over the years. I have valued working in partnership with John to support transition from Maiden Beech to Wadham and we will all miss his wisdom, wit, kindness and generosity. We wish him all the very best for a long and happy retirement."

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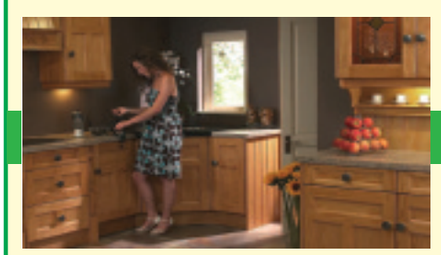

SouthSomersetnews

Prestigious appointment

SOUTH Somerset District Council's deputy development manager, Jean Marshall, has been appointed regional chairman of the Royal Town Planning Institute and will have the opportunity to showcase Somerset and the south west to top planning professionals and central government advisor.

Ms Marshall will help shape national policies ranging from the location of major new transport and energy facilities and employment across the country, through to the development of new shops, schools, homes and parks needed by local communities and the new localism agenda.

She said: "It is a real honour to have been elected by my peers within the profession and following in the footsteps of some very notable planners. 2011 is going to see some very major changes in the planning system and as chair I will have the opportunity to participate in how the profession responds to the challenges in a very real way."

Hunt back in the saddle

By Marion Draper

A LARGE gathering of riders and followers gathered in the car park at Dinnington Docks public house in Dinnington near Ilminster, for the traditional meet of the Seavington Hunt on New Year's Day.

After the severe winter weather which meant a lack of horses for Boxing Day meets across the country, huntsman John Macey was among those very glad to be back in the saddle.

The ground was still heavy but the weather dry and reasonably mild for January 1st promising a good day for the drag hunting.

During his traditional welcome speech, master Jereme Darke thanked the pub for their hospitality and encouraged all the followers to fill out postcards being handed out among them to request the Government to repeal the hunting ban which he described as "an unworkable act".

Latest reports from Parliament have stated that the ministry will be too busy with other current measures to hold the promised free vote on the ban, and bring the subject back to debate this year.

The group Conservatives Against Foxhunting claim two thirds of Conservative supporters and 75 per cent of the general population are against the repeal of the Hunting Act 2004,which bans hunting with hounds.

■ **BACK IN THE SADDLE: Huntsman John Macey leads the pack**

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■ **MASTER'S ADDRESS: Jereme Darke calls for a repeal to the hunting ban**

Reprieve for school sport but not colleges

THE ASSOCIATION of Colleges has announced its disappointment that the revised funding arrangement for school sport - providing every secondary school with funding to 2013 to pay for one day a week of a physical education teacher's time, - does not include a reprieve for the same posts in further education and sixth form colleges.

A spokesperson for the association stated: "The announcement by the Department for Education demonstrates that the government has recognised the value of additional time spent on sporting activities and competitions.

"Encouraging students to increase their involvement in sport was a key role in the work of Further Education Sports Co-ordinators (FESCo), so it is surprising and discouraging that colleges have not also been provided with the one day per week role in the revised settlement.

"This would cost less than £5 million for two years, compared with the £65 million that has been found for schools. There is a significant drop in sports participation when young people leave school, and it remains a priority for Sport England and many sports-related national governing bodies to increase the number of 16-19 year olds taking part in competitive sport.

"If the FESCo role is retained, even if reduced to one day per week, it would provide a mechanism for ensuring that the drop-off in participation post-16 is reduced."

Chief executive Martin Doel, said: "Colleges provide a setting for more than 800,000 young people each year and a continued role for the FESCo posts is essential in keeping these students involved in sport.

"Colleges have been an important part of the School Sports Partnerships for the past two years. The FESCo role has just started to make a real difference and we have seen significant increases in the number of 16-19 year olds taking part in sport as a result. Young people in college deserve the same opportunities as those in schools; this announcement means that they will not receive those opportunities."

British Colleges Sport chief executive John Hole added: "British Colleges Sport shares the disappointment of the AoC and the sector as whole that colleges have not been included within the Government plans for sport.

"There is no doubt that the FESCos are making a great difference, particularly around participation and volunteering. Our students are the future of sport in the country and deserve the same chances as their contemporaries in schools."

Council leader prepares for another tough year

SOMERSET County Council Leader, councillor Ken Maddock, has issued a New Year message to the people of Somerset.

"There is no doubt that 2010 has been a tough year for everyone. For me as leader of Somerset County Council, it has definitely been one of the most difficult and challenging of my political career.

"Difficult, because after already agreeing £43million of savings in November, Somerset County Council still faces further severe cuts in 2011, and challenging, because of this, we are forced to take even more tough decisions.

"The harsh settlement grant we recently received from central government has made our already dire financial situation worse. It took a few weeks to unravel the settlement's full extent, but now it has become startlingly clear. Somerset County Council needs to make a further £20m in savings in the next financial year alone.

"But, we saw this blow coming and took early preventative measures. If we had not acted so soon, we would undoubtedly be facing even bigger cuts going forward into the new year. We made efficiencies and we looked at new ways of working. We also took stock. We know what we stand for, we know what we do and we know what we can't do. Should we keep a library open or spend the money looking after vulnerable children? Should we help the elderly or keep a recycling centre open?

"However, the new year is a time to look forward, and despite our financial deficit I have real optimism for Somerset County Council in 2011. I foresee an organisation that is smaller, leaner, but also dynamic, robust and ambitious with the drive and purpose to succeed.

"So, what can the people of Somerset expect next year? We are relentlessly driving to bring down Somerset's debt and we have frozen Council Tax for yet another year.

"Admittedly, some services people have come to expect from us we can no longer afford to do but Somerset will still continue to be a wonderful place to work, live and visit.

"New businesses are starting up in the county all the time and we are working hard on the proposed new power station at Hinkley Point to provide thousands of new jobs for local people. Also, new major roads and a new bridge will ease traffic congestion in Taunton whilst three new schools are under construction in Bridgwater. Standards across our schools are improving (up by five per cent from last year) and our adult social care is amongst the best in the country.

"So, although 2011 is going to a tough year, I know by working together and sharing the burden, we can reap the rewards, together."

Cricket St Thomas seeks local artists

THE historic links between Cricket St Thomas Hotel, near Chard, and Lord Nelson are to be celebrated in a new work of art.

Warner Leisure is asking its guests to come up with the design. The company will then commission an up and coming artist to produce the design, whether it is a mural, sculpture or mosaic.

General Manager Ian Gyte said: "The new work will become the focus of interest for an archway set into the wall of the hotel, positioned so it has an uninterrupted view of the lookout point used by Lord Nelson on his regular visits to Cricket St Thomas.

"The country house is steeped in naval history and is where Lord Nelson courted Lady Hamilton so we thought it would be nice to involve both our guests and a local artist in trying to highlight that history.

"We hope that it might be a project that would appeal to a student or someone embarking on a career as an artist or sculptor and would love to hear from suitable candidates."

News of the new work of art comes as the hotel revealed the winning design for a new sculpture that will feature in the hotel's renowned gardens and lakes.

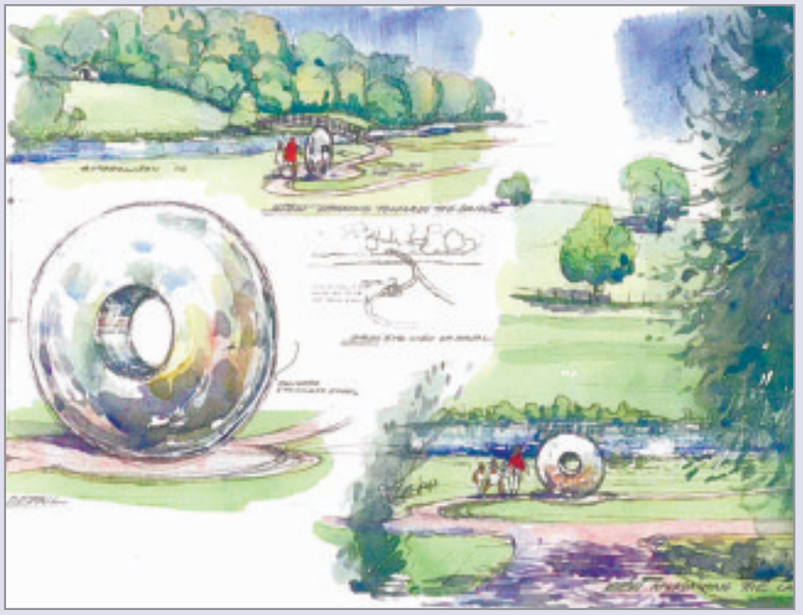
More than 100 sculptors and artists from around the country put forward concepts and drawings for a new piece that will be a centrepiece of a three-year restoration of the historic gardens and lakes.

Inspired by the interaction of light, landscape and water, the new sculpture by Oxfordshire-based David Harber is a large, ring-shaped piece in mirror-polished stainless steel.

Mr Gyte said: "We were amazed by the number of people who produced different designs and concepts and it was a very difficult job trying to decide which one to go for. But in the end we felt David Harber's design would create a fascinating, contemporary and constantly changing centrepiece to our new-look gardens and lakes."

If you think you might have the skills to produce the finished artwork contact ian.gyte@bourne-leisure.co.uk

The finished design will be developed in conjunction with the commissioned artist.



■ **WINNING DESIGN: David Harber's garden sculpture will be produced by a local artist**

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■ NO STAR TO GUIDE US: The three wise men

Last of the little Christmas angels!

WEEKENDER reporter **MARION DRAPER** attended almost every children's nativity, concert and party in the Chard area during the festive season. These two pages are a round-up of all those that haven't already been featured.

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■ ALL'S WELL: The star regains his shine and lights the way for Mary and Joseph

EARLY Years children at Avishayes Community Primary School in Chard performed a charming tale for their Nativity about a star which had lost its shine. The wise men sang their tale of woe at trying to find their way with no star to guide them but with encouragement from the others, the star got its shine back and all ended well.

CHRISTMAS WISHES: Little fairies wave their wands at Clare House, while little elves (below) enjoy the party

CLARE House nursery in Chard held a special Christmas entertainment for the children to dress up and sing to family and friends.

The event was attended by councillor Cathie Morrison representing the town council and whose grandson also gattendsthe pre-school. The children and their carers sang popular rhymes as well as jingle bells with real bells.

After the little party a resident outside commented that he knew how much the children loved Clare House, because he only saw them cry when they were leaving.

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■ HOLYROOD Academy held their carol service at St Mary's Church in Chard The school orchestra played for the congregation and there was a retiring collection for Children's Hospice South West which totalled £305.78. The school would like to thank everyone who supported the service.

■ CALLING FOR ATTENTION: The Little Soldier blows his horn

THE LITTLE soldier at the centre of the Key Stage One play by Combe St Nicholas Church of England Primary School impressed head teacher Lesley Watson so much, she said she would know where to go next time she wanted something organised in school.

The Christmas play was held in the church next to their school and centred around one of the soldiers ordered to do all the counting for the census in Bethlehem.

The readers were nice and clear and the soldier was definitely a fine presence on the stage. Older children helped with the singing, making it a good team effort for the youngsters.

■ WHERE IS THE BABY? The shepherds search through the church

■ SUB-ZERO temperatures and icy road conditions presented no problems to one cheery fellow dressed in red, as he brought smiles and gifts to over 60 children.

The Yarlington Housing Group annual party, which was open to children of residents in local communities, proved very popular again this year, with the youngsters being delighted by local entertainer Steve Apelt. After a hectic session of games, the children enjoyed a party tea before the arrival of Father Christmas

Yarlington Housing Group has a series of events planned for the New Year. These include sports and dancing classes, as well as something special to celebrate the Royal Wedding in April.

■ CHARD School held its annual carol service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Furnham Road. All of the children participated in the Victorian themed service. Dressed in Victorian clothing, they sang traditional carols including Away in a Manger'and Silent Night, while the recorder group played The First Noel and pupils read from the Bible. A retiring collection in aid of Children's Hospice South West raised over £200.

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■ HEALTHY NEW YEAR: South Petherton walking group at Haselbury Mill near Crewkerne

Healthy start to New Year

MILDER weather for New Year's Day brought many people out into the countryside, including a group of 40 walkers at Haselbury Mill,who set out on a five mile circular walk to blow away the seasonal cobwebs.

South Petherton Walking Group is not a club, there is no committee or membership list. Co-ordinator Ian Greenfield said he merely keeps a list of contacts who may or may not turn up on the day, for a social ramble across country that usually includes stop at a local pub, farm shop, or tea room. The group attracts walkers from across a wide area, and walk around the Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster area. Included on January 1st were guests at Haselbury Mill who were down from Harrogate and Leicestershire for the second year running and raring to go, despite celebrating New Year in the tithe barn until 3.30am. A new addition was Anne Roberts from Broadwinsdor with her lurchers, she had decided to come along for the first time and was amazed to meet someone who had bought puppies from her 30 years ago. She remarked that it was nice to have a walking group than did not object to dogs joining in.

Mr Greenfield said that was one beauty of not being a club, there were no rules and everyone was responsible for themselves. He said: 'We walk about 140 farms and treat the farmer as a neighbour who has a bigger garden. Originally we aimed at the over 50s but have increasingly picked up under 40s and we have a special buggy walk once a month for the mums.

'We have been described as the most successful walking group in Somerset and believe in supporting local business and services. We have used the Nippy Bus so much that we regularly fill the N6 demand response service. Nippy have been fantastic and even carried on through the snow for us, we have never missed a walk due to weather yet.

If you don't use your bus service you will lose it and the 91 bus stop Stagecoach service don't mind dogs if you pay 75p.

'We cater for people who don't want to go on a route march, it's all about enjoying the countryside and if you want to stop and look at a kingfisher you can'.

The group are currently trying to gain 'Walkers Are Welcome' status , a nationwide accreditation scheme for walk-friendly towns to encourage a network of towns and villages that provide a good walking visitor experience. For more information on the South Petherton Walking Group go to www. southpethertonwalkinggroup.org or call Ian Greenfield 01460 241364.

South Petherton councillor lands top NHS director job

DISTRICT councillor Paull Robathan of South Petherton has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director of Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

Having served as a governor at Musgrove Park Hospital for nearly two years, he was appointed after a very competitive selection process, with over 40 applicants.

The whole appointment process was run by the governors at Musgrove, the majority of whom ,were elected by foundation trust members. The appointment is for a four year team with a remuneration of £12,515 per annum.

With a 40 year career in strategy, consultancy, and company direction and management worldwide behind him, together with his experience in local politics as a councillor and former leader of South Somerset District Council as well as chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership, he was well qualified for the position. He has also been a keen supporter of the building of the new hospital in South Petherton itself, which will be open later this year.

The councillor said: 'This is a great honour for me, and a fantastic opportunity. Having been involved as a governor already, I know that Musgrove is a great hospital. I also know that the environment in the public sector is tough and will only get tougher. I look forward to helping the Foundation Trust continue to improve, providing the highest quality of care.'

Trust chairman Ros Wyke said: 'I am delighted that Paull has been appointed. His local knowledge and extensive experience will be a great asset to us'.

■ UP FOR THE CHALLENGE: Councillor Paull Robathan

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	Adonia	16-Sep-11	26	Eastern Mediterranean	Up to £800	£5,244	✓
	Arcadia	29-Mar-11	14	Western Mediterranean	Up to £790	£1,389	✓
	Arcadia	31-Aug-11	24	USA & Canada - No Fly	Up to £1,010	£2,999	✓
	Arcadia	17-Dec-11	23	Caribbean - No Fly	Up to £1,020	£2,800	✓
	Aurora	06-Jul-11	18	Fjords, Greenland & Iceland	Up to £1,460	£2,174	✓
	Aurora	15-Oct-11	17	Central Mediterranean	Up to £1,050	£1,625	✓
	Aurora	14-Nov-11	36	Caribbean & Panama - No Fly	Up to £1,420	£3,099	✓
	Azura	22-Jul-11	14	Western Mediterranean	Up to £760	£1,719	✓
	Oceana	16-Apr-11	14	Western Mediterranean	Up to £860	£1,279	✓
	Oceana	23-Jul-11	14	Western Mediterranean	Up to £960	£1,649	✓
	Oceana	21-Nov-11	24	Eastern Mediterranean	Up to £720	£2,049	✓
	Oceana	26-Feb-12	24	Eastern Mediterranean	Up to £940	£1,999	✓
	Oriana	30-Mar-11	17	Central Mediterranean	Up to £1,050	£1,550	✓
	Oriana	20-May-11	14	Baltic	Up to £500	£1,559	✓
	Oriana	22-Jul-11	16	Central Mediterranean	Up to £1,150	£2,074	✓
	Oriana	27-Sep-11	34	Caribbean - No Fly	Up to £1,410	£3,199	✓
	Oriana	19-Dec-11	17	Western Mediterranean	Up to £790	£2,100	✓
	Ventura	27-May-11	17	Central Mediterranean	Up to £1,020	£1,925	✓
CUNARD	Queen Elizabeth	19-Apr-11	11	Iberia & Canaries	Up to $900	£1,450	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	05-May-11	14	Mediterranean	Up to $1,300	£1,529	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	14-Jun-11	17	Mediterranean	Up to $1,400	£1,980	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	15-Jul-11	11	The Fjords	Up to $1,140	£1,600	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	14-Aug-11	14	Baltic	Up to $1,860	£1,834	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	12-Sep-11	24	North America & Canada - No Fly	Up to $3,200	£2,994	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	23-Oct-11	5	Northern Europe	Up to $600	£690	✓
	Queen Elizabeth	20-Dec-11	16	Iberia & Canaries	Up to $2,360	£2,249	✓
	Queen Victoria	24-Apr-11	16	Mediterranean	Up to $1,860	£1,473	✓
	Queen Victoria	22-May-11	7	Northern Europe	Up to $840	£780	✓
	Queen Victoria	05-Jun-11	14	Mediterranean	Up to $1,620	£1,599	✓
	Queen Victoria	19-Jun-11	12	Baltic	Up to $1,220	£1,479	✓
	Queen Victoria	08-Jul-11	12	Mediterranean	Up to $1,090	£1,429	✓
	Queen Victoria	01-Aug-11	17	Mediterranean	Up to $2,040	£1,950	✓
	Queen Mary 2	24-May-11	10	Northern Europe	Up to $600	£1,129	✓
	Queen Mary 2	17-Jun-11	7	The Fjords	Up to $940	£939	✓
	Queen Mary 2	13-Jul-11	7	The Fjords	Up to $960	£929	✓
	Queen Mary 2	20-Sep-11	24	North America & Canada - No Fly	Up to $2,480	£3,099	✓
	Queen Mary 2	12-Dec-11	29	Caribbean - No Fly	Up to $3,900	£3,979	✓
PRINCESS CRUISES	Crown Princess	09-Jul-11	7	Norwegian Fjords Interlude	Up to $200	£899	Complimentary upgrades available call for details
	Grand Princess	21-May-11	7	Iberia Interlude	Up to $160	£749	
	Grand Princess	28-May-11	7	Norwegian Fjords Interlude	Up to $100	£849	
	Grand Princess	15-Jun-11	14	Spitsbergen & North Cape	Up to $180	£1,649	
	Grand Princess	29-Jun-11	17	Mediterranean & Adriatic	Up to $260	£2,119	
	Grand Princess	03-Sep-11	14	Mediterranean Adventurer	Up to $340	£1,649	

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weekender people

A few of our favourite things

AS FORMER publicans of the Bell Inn, Ilminster, Trevor and Marjorie Armstrong who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary last October have a wealth of happy memories to keep them warm through the cold winter days but among their many adventures, there are a few particular things that take pride of place to remind them of a fulfilling life.

Sitting over their fireplace stands a brass horse representing their brief span as owners of a racehorse, when they won the Bell-Fruit Racehorse for a Year competition in 1972. Mrs Armstrong said she probably thought they were actually going to get to keep the horse in a field for a year.

They attended a special celebrity luncheon in London compered by Bob Monkhouse where they were "given ownership" of the racehorse Express. This meant that for a whole season they would actually be given any winnings from the horse, which belonged to a director of the fruit machine company.

As it happened the horse was switched to show jumping part way through their season and the Armstrong's fortunes were taken on by another hurdler, Summer Scene. They never backed the horse themselves and they didn't gain a fortune but it was a very exciting time for the couple who not only treasure the brass horse but a scrapbook of news clippings, photographs and souvenirs from the presentation.

Mr Armstrong is proud of his medals. As a telegraph operator in the Royal Navy during the war he served on HMS Bulolo, a converted New Zealand cruise ship, and was involved with the North African landings and later Sicily, Anzio and Normandy.

He came out in 1948 but said his greatest accolade was when he had been called back as a reserve in 1950. He was working "a cushy number" at Burnham wireless station, where the naval staff had joined forces with Marconi post office operators. He said: "The Queen Mary contacted me and said 'I've got 30 telegrams for you.'

There was a calling frequency and a working frequency, I set her up with the working frequency and we cleared the 30 telegrams within half an hour. When we finished the operator on the Queen Mary said 'good operating old man' and I said naval operator here and that was it, they went very quiet after that. There was a lot of jealousy between the Marconi and the naval operators. We were there to see to the naval traffic really and keep it separated from the merchant navy."

Marjorie had been the landlord's daughter and the couple took over the Bell Inn but were later forced into early retirement due to Trevor's degenerative eyesight. Theymoved to White Lackington where Mr Armstrong became the treasurer at the social club.

When they moved into Ilminster the club chairman Kevin Elsewood presented them with a crystal bowl and a board was mounted over the bar area calling it the Armstrong Arms . It had the wireless telegraph badge either side which the couple found very touching.

■ THE HIGH LIFE: Marjorie Armstrong with their racehorse for a year memorabilia

■ WORN WITH PRIDE: Trevor Armstrong with his medals from naval operations

■ PRIDE AND JOY: Trevor with the crystal bowl gifted by the Whitelackington social club

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60 seconds

AMATEUR theatre lover Angie Davies has a very busy start to the new year, with a new job and rehearsals for a pantomime. Originally from Leicestershire where she was in nursing, Angie has lived in Chard for 13 years where she works as a health advisor. For the last five years she was at Boots but has just started at Lloyds Pharmacy, where she is going to be a health advisor and dispenser.

Six years ago Angie went to rehearsals of Chard Amateur Theatre Society to support her husband and was hooked. Now she is preparing to play a henchman in the CATS production of Red Riding Hood, which will be performed in the Guildhall from January 27th-29th.

● **HOW are the rehearsals going?**
Pretty usual for this stage, everyone is panicking and we feel like we are running out of time. I am playing a man for the first time, one of the two henchmen to the sheriff. I'm the bossy one which everyone says suits me.

● **WHAT made you decide to join CATS?**
I went along to support Grant and got pulled into the chorus. Janet Daley, who was producing at the time, asked me to do a one-act play and from there I moved into principle roles. I have been Cow in Aladdin and was assistant producer for Treasure Island as I wanted to see a panto from the production side. I was Mummy Bear, then Fairy Lavendar and now I'm a man.

● **WHAT do you like about being a member?**
It's like a big family, you have your ups and downs but we have such a laugh at rehearsals, then there is the build-up and excitement before a performance. When you get into your outfit and put the make-up on you really start to feel the character and it's great to be part of something that people enjoy, it's such a buzz, I can't stop now. I like the free night when we get all the folk from the homes in, they are such a good audience and we all meet them for tea and a chat at half time.

● **WHICH is your favourite part?**
I like Tough the one I am playing now because it's completely different and a challenge but I did enjoy being Mummy Bear, I could hide behind the fur. We won major awards for that production.

● **WHAT do you like about Chard?**
Coming from where I did, I called it a village when I first moved here. It is a nice place with a nice community, I just wish there was more for the young people to do and it would be good to see more tourists coming in. I have been happy here and felt welcomed.

● **IS there something you think would be an improvement?**
It would be nice to see the Guildhall used for more community functions in the evenings, there is the cinema but we need more shows to bring people in to town. My husband is Chard born and bred and he said the cinema used to be great and having our own theatre would be wonderful. The stage at the Guildhall is good but it's not like having a separate theatre, like in Ilminster.

I went backstage at the Octagon - wow.

● **DO you have any unfulfilled ambitions?**
If I was to win the lottery I would love to travel the world, but doing good things while I was abroad. I do the lottery but won about £9 when it first started and nothing since.

● **WHAT three things would you want on your desert island?**
I can't go anywhere without my make-up bag and I would have to have plenty of food and drink, and a radio.

● **SO you are a bit of a foodie then?**
I love to cook and entertain, my mum was half Italian so I love cooking Italian and curries from scratch but Grant doesn't like spicy and my favourite meal would still be good old roast beef and Yorkshire pud.

● **WHAT do you like about your job?**
I am learning new things every day and I love dealing with the public, even the grumpy ones.

I am a people person, that's probably why I like going on stage so much.

● **DO you have any other hobbies?**
I like holding murder mysteries at home with my husband, we do them as fundraisers and I cook - it's a whole experience. I also have a Victorian dolls' house and collect old teddies.

● **IF you could meet anyone who would it be?**
I would like to have met Agatha Christie - what a mind - absolutely fantasic. I would love to get inside her head. I'm hoping to go to Greenway where she lived this year and I am six books away from her complete collection in old books.

On the fictional side, I would love to shake paws with Aleksandr Orlov the meerkat character off the TV ads. I think he is absolutely classic and I just had to go and by his autobiography from Hooked on Books.

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Holland

5 Day Dutch Tour

We have two holidays running to Holland this year

Departs 10/04/11 Returns 14/04/11 Departs 17/04/11 Returns 21/04/11

Travelling from Folkestone to Calais via the shuttle and staying four nights at the Campanile Hotel, which is located in Amersfoort North, approximately a 15 minute drive from the City Centre. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Volendam, Amsterdam, Koetenhoef Gardens, A Cheese Factory, A Hand Made Clog factory, Aalsmeer Flower Market.

Valid passport, Single suplements may apply

All inclusive price per person: **£399**

Ireland

8 Days in Tralee

Departs 14/08/11 Returns 21/08/11

Travelling by Ferry from Fishguard to Rosslare and staying in Wexford for one night at The Whites Hotel. Then travelling to Tralee and staying six nights at The Brandon Hotel and then staying a further night at The Whites Hotel on the return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Waterford Crystal, Dingle Experience, Ring od Kerry, Killarney, Muckross House and Gardens, Lake Cruise and trip by Jaunting Car New Ross, Middleton (Jameson Distillery)

Valid passport, Limited number of Non single supplement rooms, Admission charges, Overnight bag required

price per person: **£589**

England

5 Day Spring Break in St Ives

at The Cottage Hotel **

Your break will begin by travelling to St. Ives and spending four nights at the Cottage hotel, situated in Corbis Bay, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: The Eden Project, Penzance and Lands End and a free day in St Ives.

All inclusive price per person: **£229**

Price based on 2 persons sharing

Ireland

10 Day Irish Tour

Departs 29/05/11 Returns 07/06/11

Travelling to Caernarfon and spending one night at the Celtic Royal Hotel then travelling by ferry from Holyhead to Dublin and staying in Dublin for two nights at The Plaza Hotel. You will then travel to Donegal and stay five nights at the Central Hotel and then stay a further night at The Whites Hotel on the return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Free Day in Dublin, The Giants Causeway, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Mullaghmore Head, Belleek Famous Pottery, Drumcliff (made famous by poet W.B. Yates) Donegal Bay Boat Trip (weather permitting), Killybegs, Olencomicile, Folk village, Glengesh Pass and Ardara.

Valid passport, Limited number of Non single supplement rooms, Admission charges, Overnight bag required

price per person: **£699**

Scotland

8 Days in Fort William

We have two holidays running to Fort William this year

Departs 17/07/11 Returns 24/07/11 Departs 25/09/11 Returns 02/10/11

Your break will begin by spending one night at the Gretna Hall Hotel a further five nights at the Alexandra Hotel and one night at The Gretna Hall Hotel on your return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price

The tour will be visiting: Oban, Ben Nevis Distillery and Visitors Centre, Spean Bridge Woolen Mill, The Commando Memorial, Neptunes Staircase, AonachMor Gondola Lit and Ski Centre, Newton More, Kingossie - Waltzing Waters, Jacobite Steam Train Ride: Fort William to Malaig return

Limited number of non single supplement rooms Overnight bag required

All inclusive price per person: **£599**

England

5 Days in Newquay

Departs 15/10/11 Returns 19/10/11

The tour will begin by travelling to Newquay and staying 4 nights at the Elliot Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

There's something for everyone in this trendy but friendly seaside resort. Moments away from its busy town centre, you will be able to enjoy Newquay's splendid coastline, glorious beaches and magnificant vistas and a wealth of entertainment and leisure activities.

The tour will be visiting: Eden Project, Tintagel & Boscastle, a free day in Newquay

Limited number of single supplement rooms

All inclusive price per person: **£229**

Belgium

5 Day Tour, Bruges

Departs 07/08/11 Returns 11/08/11

Your break will begin by travelling to Calais via the Euro shuttle and then driving to Bruges where you will spend four nights at the Ibis Central Hotel. Bed and Continental Breakfast Buffet are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Dunkirk, A Belgian Chocolate Factory, Ypres (where the Menin Gate is located and World War 1 memorials) Ostend and some leisure time in Bruges

Valid passport, Single suplements may apply, Admission Charges

price per person: **£349**

England

5 Days in The Isle of Wight

We have two holidays running to Isle of Wight this year

Departs 29/03/11 Returns 02/04/11 Departs 21/10/11 Returns 25/10/11

Your break will begin by travelling from Southampton to Ryde and staying four nights at the fabulous Burlington Hotel, situated in Sandown. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Day trip around the Island, Godshill (known as the most photographed village in Britain) Shanklin, Ventnor and the botanic Gardens, Ryde and the Waltzing Waters, Arlington Barns and the Busy Bee garden centre, leisure time in Sandown

Limited number of single supplement rooms, Admission Charges

price per person: **£239**

England

5 Days in Carlisle

Departs 16/05/11 Returns 20/05/11

Your break will begin by travelling north to Carlisle and staying 4 nights at The Hallmark Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting:

Carlisle to Hexham via Hadrians Wall, Carlisle to Settle - return by train and a boat trip on Lake Windermere, over the Kirkstone pass.

Limited number of single supplement rooms

All inclusive price per person: **£399**

Scotland

8 Days in Oban

We have two holidays running to Oban this year

Departs 19/06/11 Returns 26/06/11 Departs 02/07/11 Returns 09/07/11

Your break will begin by spending one night at the Gretna Hall Hotel, A further five nights at the Royal Hotel in Oban and one night spent back at the Gretna Hotel on your return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Fort William, Neptune's Stair case, The Commando Memorial, Aonach Gondola Lift and Ski Centre, Mull and Iona tour by ferry and coach, Cruachan, The Hollow Mountail, Bridge over the Atlantic, Bridge of Orchy, Glencoe, Ballachulish and Seil Island

Limited number of non single supplement rooms Overnight bag required

All inclusive price per person: **£599**

England

5 Days in Eastbourne

Departs 07/09/11 Returns 11/09/11

Your break will begin by travelling to Eastborne and staying four nights at the Hadleigh hotel or the Haddon Hall, situated on the Grand Parade. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Battle (abbey and battlefield), Hastings, Beachy Head and countryside centre, Newhaven and Paradise garden centre, Brighton, leisure day in Eastbourne.

Limited number of Non single supplement rooms Admission charges may apply

All inclusive price per person: **£329**

Wales

5 Days in Tenby

We have two holidays running to Tenby this year

Departs 25/04/11 Returns 29/04/11 Departs 29/08/11 Returns 02/09/11

Your break will begin by travelling to Tenby and staying four nights at the Clarence House Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price. there are also a 'complimentary' one hour house bar every evening on this tour.

The tour will be visiting: Saundersfoot, St Davids (officially Britain's smallest city with the largest cathedral in Wales), Tenby (free time in the town), Carmarthen, Lovespoon workshop, Avondale Glass blowing (a unique and fascinating experience)

Limited number of Non single supplement rooms Admission charges

price per person: **£319**

Seasonal

5 Days in Eastbourne

Turkey & Tinsel

Departs 31/10/11 Returns 04/11/11

Your break will begin by travelling to Eastbourne and staying four nights at the Hadleigh Hotel or the Haddon Hall, situated on the Grand Parade. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Beachy Head, Newhaven Park Garden centre, Brighton, Cite Europe, Calais via the Eurotunnel and a leisure day in Eastbourne.

Limited number of single supplement rooms

All inclusive price per person: **£289**

Seasonal

5 Days in North England

Turkey & Tinsel

Departs 14/11/11 Returns 18/11/11

Your break will begin by travelling north to Dumfriesshire and staying for 4 nights at the Gretna Hall hotel at Gretna Green. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Moffat wollen Mill, Carlisle, Hadrians Wall to Hexham Lake Windermere and Kirkstone Pass.

Limited number of Non single supplement rooms Admission charges

price per person: **£279**

Seasonal

5 Days in Blackpool

Turkey & Tinsel

Departs 21/11/11 Returns 25/11/11

Your break will begin by travelling north and staying four nights at The Belgrave Madison Hotel.

The tour will be visiting: Skipton (canal Boat Trip), Settle, Foulridge Canal Boat Trip, Hawes Christmas Market, A free day for Christmas shopping in Blackpool.

Limited number of single supplement rooms

All inclusive price per person: **£199**

Seasonal

5 Day Isle of Wight

Turkey & Tinsel

Departs 05/12/11 Returns 09/12/11

Your break will begin by travelling from Southampton to Ryde and staying four nights at the fabulous Burlington Hotel, situated in Sandown, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Day Trip around the Island, Godshill (known as the most photographed village in britain), Shanklin and Ventnor Botanic gardens, Ryde, The Waltzing Waters, Arlington Barns and Busy Bee Garden Centre and Free leisure on the island.

Limited number of Non single supplement rooms Admission charges

price per person: **£259**

Seasonal

5 Days in St Ives

Turkey & Tinsel

Departs 12/12/11 Returns 16/12/11

Your break will begin by travelling to St. Ives and spending four nights at the Cottage hotel, situated in Corbis Bay, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

The tour will be visiting: Lands End, St Just, Penzance and a Leisure Day in St. Ives.

Limited number of Non single supplement rooms Admission Charges

All inclusive price per person: **£199**

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Unveil a New You this New Year

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We are sure that after our festive excesses many of us are turning our thoughts to unveiling a new you in the New Year. If you have one stone or more to lose and have decided that it is time to shift your excess weight for good, LighterLife could well be the programme for you.

LighterLife's highly effective programme uses a powerful combination of nutritionally complete soups, shakes and bars diet, together with cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and transactional analysis (TA) counselling techniques to help clients to lose the weight and make lasting changes in order to keep it off.

Lynn Baynes, LighterLife Counsellor for Yeovil comments: "The LighterLife Programme is the only national weight-loss and weight-management plan that looks beyond food, to examine lifestyle and emotions in order to help clients to break the weight-loss / weight-gain cycle and make lasting changes".

Before becoming a LighterLife Counsellor Lynn worked for the Somerset Youth Offending Team, helping to empower young people to make the necessary changes to put and end to their offending behaviour, and was inspired to become a LighterLife Counsellor after finally finding a weight-loss solution that worked for her.

"I have yo-yo dieted all of my life and finally lost the battle after my daughter was born in 1990", says Lynn. I had given up all hope of ever losing weight, save some kind of miracle!

"When I heard about the LighterLife Programme I knew that it was the right weight-loss solution for me as it addressed why I was eating when I wasn't even hungry. It took me several months to work up the courage to attend an information session, but I finally made it and since losing the weight I have had to restrain myself from rushing up to people in the street and telling them that they too could lose weight and quickly!

"I realised that becoming a LighterLife Counsellor would be a rewarding career opportunity that allowed me to help others, who, like me, struggled with their weight and it is such a pleasure not only watching my clients lose weight at a fantastic rate, but also witnesses the change that the weight loss has on their lives", she continued.

If you want to make 2011 the year that you that you make lasting changes to your weight and lifestyle, contact Lynn on 01935 479686 or visit www.lighterlife.com/lynnbaynes

Lighterlife councillor: Linda Baynes

Brand new concept in personal training and nutrition

CREWKERNE HEALTH CLUB have, for the past 18 months been delivering a personalised nutrition and lifestyle service called "Thomson Diet Club" with staggering success, Club owner Jerry Cooke says "we have been amazed at the response to the service, we are so convinced by it that we have been offering a "money back" guarantee if you attend your one-to-one nutritional consultations and your prescribed exercise sessions every week. In the 18 months of the plan, no-one has asked for their money back because it works so well!"

"The system is not point counting, calorie counting or drinking milkshakes or soups, it is all to do with normal healthy foods that the individuals probably have anyway, but the clever bit is about the science of when to eat and what foods go well together"

One of the most successful clubbers Ed King, lost a staggering 2 stone in around 13 weeks, and has gone on to maintain his weight by sensible eating and regular but short exercise sessions. You do not even have to follow an exercise plan with the Club, but it certainly helps to maintain your results once you reach your target weight.

One of you lucky readers will WIN A FREE 12 MONTH MEMBERSHIP!

To Crewkerne Health Club just by sending your name, address, telephone number and email address to Marie Austin at Unit 3, St Michaels Business Centre, Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3EA and EVERY ENTRANT WILL RECEIVE A FREE 7 DAY PASS FOR THE GYM.

Entries are open until Friday, January 14th, when the draw will be made. First drawn will win a 12 month membership. Data collected from entrants may be used by Crewkerne Health Club to inform you about promotions; please state if you wish not to receive these updates.

Young gardeners grow their own

By Marion Draper

CREWKERNE children from St Bartholomew's Church of England First School were among budding young gardeners and cooks from 60 schools across Devon and Somerset who celebrated at a prize giving event recently.

It was part of the 'Dig it, Grow it, Cook it, Eat it' competition held by Taunton-based recycling company Viridor who gave the schools some seeds and one tonne of Revive compost, the soil conditioner produced from Somerset's garden waste that has been used in gold medal winning gardens at the Chelsea and Hampton Court flower shows.

The competition was run in partnership with Devon County Council and Somerset Waste Action Programme (SWAP). The schools all entered diaries showing the progress of their digging, growing, cooking and eating and St. Bartholomew's were runners up, taking fourth place. Toby Buckland, from BBC2's 'Gardeners' World', presented the awards and the children were extremely proud of their gardening success.

Four pupils who demonstrated superb gardening skills and dedication to the school gardens, Courtney Gregory, Joshua Welch, Jack Wetherall and Nicole Gould, went to receive the award with Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Alice Samuel at Hestercombe House near Taunton. The day included a fun activity making mini greenhouses and the St. Bart's gardeners had a great day , they said they especially enjoyed meeting with celebrity Mr Buckland.

■ LOOK WHAT WE GREW: The children are delighted with their vegetables

■ GETTING HANDS DIRTY: Young gardeners at St Bartholomew's School

■ THE PROOF IS IN THE EATING: Pupils enjoy their produce

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weekender life

arts & entertainment

What's Happening at Ilminster Arts Centre

by Sara Loveridge

A HAPPY New Year from everyone at Ilminster Arts Centre! We start this new decade with the fantastic news that we have been awarded the top sum of £3000 by the NatWest Community Fund. This will enable us to develop more workshops for children and young people as well as improve the heating in the main hall. We would like to say a big thank you to NatWest and all the people who voted for us. After a difficult year in 2010 we now look set to have a brighter 2011.

We begin the New Year in an explosion of colour with a vibrant exhibition by our own Visual Arts Co-ordinator, Diane Burnell. **Ark** is body of work created in a large container at Ark Removals in Taunton, courtesy of the owner Mike Crook. This exhibition in the Main Gallery is a tribute to his support and generosity. Make time for coffee and cake in our Café Gallery and ponder the journey taken by another artist, first class graduate Andrea Rowbotham. **Truth** is a series of abstract paintings that document a solitary trip to North Wales. Both exhibitions continue until January 14th.

It is all eyes on **The Prize** from Monday January 17th-29th. Talented artist Brian Parsons won 'Best Painting' category at last years Spring Open and received this exhibition as his prize. His winning painting 'Angioplasty' will be at the heart of this retrospective of work. Entry forms are now available for Spring Open 2011, once again generously supported by Branston Ltd with a top prize of £500 up for grabs. More information and entry forms available from the arts centre.

Pauline Rook gives a humorous account of her journey from mother and farmer's wife to professional photographer in **The Life and Times of a Professional Photographer** on Wednesday, January 12th. The talk will be illustrated with stunning hand-printed silver prints that document the sea-change in photography into the digital age. Our **Charity Quiz Night** on Friday, January 21st not only promises to be a great night out but it also helps raise funds for the arts centre. So get some friends together and have some fun!

Mike Denham returns with his popular Speakeasy on Friday, January 28th. He will be joined by Julian Phillips on keyboards for a night of ragtime, stride and boogie woogie styles.

Ilminster Arts Centre at The Meeting House, East Street, Ilminster. TA19 0AN. Box Office: 01460 54973. Information: 01460 55783. www.themeetinghouse.org.uk.

CHARD NNI & SCHOOL'S OUT

The complete childcare service for children aged 0 - 14 years with trained and caring staff.

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At CLARE HOUSE, MILLFIELD, CHARD 01460 62367

ILMINSTER arts centre AT THE MEETING HOUSE

COMPUTERS SIMPLIFIED

A relaxed and informal tutorial with Amanda (Barrington Secretarial Services)

Saturday 8th January - 10am-12noon

Tickets £10 (Including refreshments)

Want a computer but don't know where to start? Have a computer that's confusing and frustrating you? Too frightened to even think about it? If you're getting left behind by today's technology then you are not alone! This informal tutorial aims to provide a gentle introduction to computers and is guaranteed to be jargon-free! For more information call Amanda on: 01460 259 744.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

A talk by photographer Pauline Rock

Wednesday 12th January at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Tickets: £5 (Includes welcome drink)

Pauline Rook will give a humorous account of her journey from mother and farmer's wife to professional photographer. It will be illustrated with beautiful hand-printed silver prints that describe the sea-change in photography into the digital age.

Booking details: 01460 54973
www.themeetinghouse.org.uk
info@themeetinghouse.org.uk
East Street, Ilminster, Somerset. TA19 0AN.
Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 10.00-2.30.

Going Out Gigs

Murs Attacks!

2009 X Factor runner up Olly Murs comes to Somerset on Friday, February 11th, when he performs at Junction 24 in North Petherton.

The cheeky Essex boy, who's debut single 'Please don't Let Me Go' went straight to number one, brings the tour for his eponymous debut album to the area.

Tickets cost £24. To book, or for more details visit www.junction24ltd.co.uk/thevenue or call 077 233 775 00.

EXPLORE THE MEANING OF LIFE ON TUESDAY NIGHTS!

AN Alpha Course will be starting at South Chard Church on Tuesday, January 18th at 7.30pm. The course is completely free of charge, but pudding and refreshments will be provided.

The ten-week course is designed for those who don't regularly attend church or those who might have gone to a service over the festive season and might have questions about religion, Christianity, or whether God exists. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. There will be a short talk followed by group discussion. Over 7,000 churches are currently running an Alpha Course.

Pastor Neil Reid of South Chard Church is excited that the church is holding its second Alpha Course. He said: "Today's society is becoming increasingly secularised, but people are still hungry for spiritual meaning in their lives. We've just celebrated Christmas and many have found that Christmas today seems to be more about buying too much and getting into debt. The Alpha Course represents a chance for people who might have all sorts of questions to come and relax, eat, share their thoughts and explore the meaning of life."

More information can be found on the South Chard Church website at www.southchard.org, by emailing admin@southchard.org, by calling the church office on 01404 221215 or just come along on the night.

Going Out Art

Rook's Eye View of Life in Photography

AWARD winning photographer Pauline Rook gives a humorous account of her journey from mother and farmer's wife to professional photographer. It will be illustrated with beautiful hand-printed silver prints that describe the sea-change in photography into the digital age.

The Somerset based photographer specialises in both black and white and colour photography of children and families but is also well known for her rural documentary work which has resulted in several major commissions from the likes of The Countryside Agency and the Year of the Artist.

She has brought up four children and helped her husband to run a large dairy farm for many years. The many threads of her life have been brought together and expressed through her photographic work.

An Associate of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), her photographs have been exhibited widely across the South West and have featured in numerous local and national magazines.

For more information see: www.rookphoto.co.uk

weekenderlife

weekenderlife DIARY DATES

SATURDAY JANUARY 8TH
MARTOCK: Producers Market in the shopping precinct, or Parish Hall if bad weather. From 10am - 1pm. Telephone 01935 822202 for more details.

SUNDAY JANUARY 9TH
HINTON ST GEORGE: Merriott circular walk via Eggwood and Bowwood Lanes mett at 11am at The Cross, Hinton St George. Approximately 4.9 miles. Stopping at The King's Head for light refreshments. Can be completed in 1hour 45 mins plus pub time. Boots always advisable, wellies if wet. For more details visit southpethertonwalkinggroup.org

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12TH
SOUTH PETHERTON: Bread and Soup NippyBus Walk - Just £2.00 per person. Meet at 10.10am, start and finish at Prigg Lane 'Long Stay' Car Park. Taking in Over Stratton, Lopen, Mill Farm and Seavington. For more details visit southpethertonwalking-group.org

THURSDAY JANUARY 13TH
NORTH PERROTT: Yoga - Mixed Abilities at North Perrott Village Hall from 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Telephone 01297 77398 for more details. Weekly from this date.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH
ILMINSTER: U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha at Warehouse Theatre from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 available by calling 01460 52699.
WHITELACKINGTON: Table Top / Jumble Sale at Whitelackington Village Hall from 10am - 1pm. Tables £5. Telephone 01460 55606 for more details.

SUNDAY JANUARY 16TH
SOUTH PETHERTON: South Petherton Walking Group walk taking in West, Mid and East Lambrook. Meet at 11am at Prigg Lane 'Long Stay' Car Park, opposite South Petherton Library. Stopping at the Rose and Crown, East Lambrook. For more details visit southpethertonwalkinggroup.org

MONDAY JANUARY 17TH
MARTOCK: Talk: 'Great Crane Project' by Damon Bridges - a talk about how last year's valiant re-introduction of Cranes onto the Somerset Levels are getting on. From 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church Rooms, Somerton on West Street. Organised by Green Gardeners. Visitors £1, membership £6. Telephone 01460 772259 for more details.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19TH
SOUTH PETHERTON: South Petherton Walking Group Long Road to Muchelney along the banks of the River Yeo - Nippybus walk. Meet at 10.10am at Prigg Lane 'Long Stay' Car Park, opposite South Petherton Library. For more details visit southpethertonwalkinggroup.org

SATURDAY JANUARY 22ND
CHARD: Peace Vigil at Holyrood Street, from 11am - 12noon.

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH
ILMINSTER: South Somerset Peace Group public meeting with a talk from Faysal Mikdadi. In the Minster Rooms, Ilminster at 7.30pm. All welcome, entry £3 inc tea/coffee.

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FREE weekenderlife South Somerset Diary Dates *listings form*

Event .....
Date .....
Time .....
Venue .....
Town Village .....
Organised by ..... Tel No .....

Send your Diary Dates listings to: Lyme Media and Events, Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre, LYME REGIS, Dorset DT7 3DB. **fax:** 01297 444981, **or e-mail:** rob@pemedia.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OVER THE PHONE
Deadline for postal / e-mail entries is Wednesday, 12noon

Going Out Film

This week's new releases

DIRECTED by Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire, Trainspotting*), ***127 Hours***[15] is the true story of mountain climber Aron Ralston's remarkable adventure to save himself after a fallen boulder crashes on his arm and traps him in an isolated canyon in Utah. Over the next five days Ralston examines his life and survives the elements to finally discover he has the courage and the wherewithal to extricate himself by any means necessary, scale a 65 foot wall and hike over eight miles before he is finally rescued. Throughout his journey, Ralston recalls friends, lovers, family, and the two hikers he met before his accident. Will they be the last two people he ever had the chance to meet?

Released Friday, January 7th

COMEDY drama ***It's Kind Of A Funny Story***[12A], is the big screen adaptation of the novel of the same name.

The film tells the story of troubled teenager Craig, who decides to seek help after contemplating suicide. Craig ends up in an adult psychiatric ward, and makes friends with various other patients, including Bobby (Zach Galifianakis). The patients help each other with problems and prove that life isn't so bad.

Released Friday, January 7th

TELLING the story of the man who became King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II, ***The King's Speech***[15] stars Colin Firth as the king and Helena Bonham Carter as Queen Elizabeth.

After his brother abdicates, George ('Bertie') reluctantly assumes the throne. Plagued by a dreaded stammer and considered unfit to be king, Bertie engages the help of an unorthodox speech therapist named Lionel Logue. Through a set of unexpected techniques, and as a result of an unlikely friendship, Bertie is able to find his voice and boldly lead the country through war.

Forthcoming Events in Chard Guildhall

EVERY Sunday 10:30 am
FOREFRONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Church Service - All welcome
12th December 6.30pm Carols by Candle light
19th December 10.30am Christingle
Saturday 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Celebration

Every Tuesday 10.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
SLIMMING WORLD
Lose weight the extra easy way.
Come along and find out how.

Every Tuesday 5.15pm to 8.15pm
SOMERSET RELATE

Wednesday 19th January 10:30 am to 12:30 noon
MEMORY CAFE
Friendly and informal gathering for information, support and Social contact for people affected by dementia

Every Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.15pm
MEETING VOICES in the Town Hall
Song workshops for all "if you can speak you can sing"
Come and join us

Every Thursday 9.00am - 2.00pm
ANTIQUES FAIR
Books, china, jewellery & much more
Admission free, refreshments and lunches available
For further information contact 01460 239 567

Every Thursday 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
ZUMBA FITNESS
Exciting latin moves. A fun based fitness party workout
For Information call 07738014409 or email zumbasom@hotmail.com

Saturday 8th January 2011
10.00 am - 11.00 am
COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Thursday 27th, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th January 7.30pm
Plus Saturday matinee at 3.00pm
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD Starring **CATS**
Tickets available from Barons

THURSDAYS 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and
SATURDAYS 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
CAFÉ OPEN

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
CHARD TOWN COUNCIL RECEPTION

We have many other events taking place.
For further details please contact
Chard Town Council, The Guildhall, Chard
Tel: 01460 239 567
WWW.CHARD.GOV.UK

CINEMA LISTINGS
Friday, December 17th - Thursday, December 23rd
ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TAUNTON ODEON
Heron Gate, Riverside
Tel: 0871 22 44 007
www.odeon.co.uk

127 Hours 15
Daily: 14.30, 16.40, 19.00, 21.15
Plus Sat & Sun: 12.00
Animals United U
Sat & Sun: 11.30
Gulliver's Travels *in 3D* PG
Daily: 15.30, 17.30, 19.45
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.15, 13.30
Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows part 1 12A
Fri-Wed: 16.00, 19.15
Plus Sat & Sun: 13.00
Thu: 15.00
Legends Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole *in 2D* PG
Sat & Sun: 11.00
Little Fockers 12A
Daily: 15.45, 18.00
Plus Fri, Tue, Wed, Thu: 20.30
Plus Sat & Sun: 13.45, 20.30
Love and Other Drugs 15
Daily: 16.15
Plus Sat: 10.45, 13.15
Plus Sun: 10.45
Megamind *in 3D* PG
Sat: 10.30
Season Of The Witch 15
Daily: 18.30, 21.30
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader *in 3D* PG
Daily: 17.00
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.45
The King's Speech 12A
Daily: 18.15, 21.00
Plus Fri, Mon, Wed, Thu: 15.15
Plus Sat & Sun: 12.45, 15.15
The Next Three Days 12A
Daily: 14.50, 17.45, 20.45
Tron: Legacy *in 3D* PG
Daily: 14.15, 19.30

YEOVIL CINEWORLD
Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Rd
Tel: 0871 200 2000
www.cineworld.co.uk

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader *in 3D* PG
Daily: 14.30, 17.30, 20.10
Plus Sat & Sun: 12.00
Meet The Parents: Little Fockers 12A
Fri, Mon-Thu: 12.55, 15.25, 17.55, 20.20
Plus Sat: 13.00, 15.30, 18.00, 20.20
Plus Sun: 10.40, 13.00, 15.30, 18.00, 20.20
Gulliver's Travels *in 3D* PG
Daily: 13.30, 16.00, 18.30, 21.00
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.00
Gulliver's Travels *in 2D* PG
Sat & Sun: 12.00
Tron: Legacy *in 3D* PG
Daily: 18.30, 21.20
Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows part 1 12A
Daily: 14.00, 17.10, 20.30
Excluding Thu: 20.30
Fela! TBC
Thu: 18.45
Megamind *in 3D* PG
Daily: 13.45, 16.00
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.30
Megamind *in 2D* PG
Sat & Sun: 12.10
Arthur & his Greatest Adventures TBC
Sat & Sun: 12.00
Met Opera Live: La Fanciulla Del West TBC
Sat: 18.00
127 Hours 15
Daily: 13.40, 16.10, 18.40, 21.10
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.10
The Next Three Days 12A
Daily: 14.45, 17.45, 20.45
Plus Sat & Sun: 11.45
Season of The Witch TBC
Daily: 14.15, 16.35, 19.00, 21.15
The King's Speech 12A
Daily: 12.30, 15.10, 17.50, 20.30
Love and Other Drugs 15
Daily: 17.20, 20.15
Excluding Sat & Thu: 17.20
The Way Back 12A
Daily: 14.20
Tinkerbell and The Great Fairy Rescue U
Sat: 10.00
Toy Story *in 2D* U
Sat: 10.20
Shrek Forever After *in 2D* U
Sat: 10.10

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Broad Street, Lyme Regis
Tel: 0871 230 3200
www.scottcinemas.co.uk

Gulliver's Travels PG
Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu: 19.30
Sat: 15.00, 17.15, 19.30
Sun, Wed: 15.00,19.30

Going Out Gigs

Bon Jovi to play Bristol summer gig

ROCK legends Bon Jovi are heading to Bristol this summer for an incredible show at Ashton Gate Stadium.

The band, who've sold over 100 million albums worldwide play the stadium on Monday, June 27th, and will once again demonstrate through their epic live performances why they are frequently referred to as the kings of stadium rock, playing the hits including 'Livin' on a prayer', 'Bad Medicine' and 'It's My Life'.

Tickets cost between £59.00 and £225.00 (plus booking fees), and are available from seetickets.com.

Staying In TV

Sonia set for Square return

RETURN TO EASTENDERS | EASTENDERS favourite Natalie Cassidy is set to return to Albert Square in the New Year.

Her character, Sonia Fowler, will reappear in Walford to help out when her half-sister Bianca goes missing.

Sonia's one-off appearance in early 2011 comes after a huge confrontation between Carol (Lindsey Coulson), Whitney (Shona McGarty) and Connor (Arinze Kene) sees the truth emerge over Connor's relationships with Bianca's mother and stepdaughter.

After events come to a head, Bianca (Patsy Palmer) mysteriously disappears from the Square - but Sonia's comeback sees her provide some answers to questions that Carol and Ricky (Sid Owen) have about the feisty mum's whereabouts.

A source said: "True to form, Bianca has got herself into big trouble while trying to protect her family and, scared about what might happen, she does a runner.

"Sonia then turns up unannounced - and drops the bombshell that she knows where Bianca is and what she is going to do next.

"But while Sonia is there other truths start to surface and viewers will find out what she and her husband Martin have been up to."

Natalie last appeared in the soap in February, when Sonia returned as a guest at Ricky and Bianca's wedding.

CHILES IS 'REPELLENT' | ADRIAN Chiles has admitted he finds the sight of himself on television "repellent" but said he was forced to watch a recording of Daybreak in a bid to improve the show's ratings.

The ITV1 morning show drew a million viewers for the first time last month, having earlier seen its audience dip as low as 500,000 at one stage.

Adrian told Radio Times he had previously only watched around 20 minutes of himself on television during a career going back more than 20 years.

He said: "I still don't like to look at myself in the monitor. I literally can't bear the sight of myself. I'm not fishing for compliments. I find the sight of myself just repellent."

But co-host Christine Bleakley persuaded him to watch the show to see if they could spot any obvious mistakes.

He said: "She's very technically minded about the craft of television, shots and lighting - she's always banging on about it.

"About a month into the show, when we were getting really panned, she said 'Look, we've got to just go and sit and watch it'.

"So I cooked and she came round to my place, and I was dreading it. I'd have less dreaded two hours with the dentist that evening."

The pair started fronting Daybreak, which replaced the axed GMTV, in September after presenting BBC programme The One Show together.

CORDEN TO VOICE CHILDREN'S SHOW | NEWLY engaged actor James Corden is to lend his voice to a children's television show.

The former Gavin And Stacey star will act as the narrator for the pre-school series Little Charley Bear, due to begin this month on CBeebies.

Corden, 32, last month confirmed he had asked his pregnant girlfriend Julia Carey to marry him while they were on holiday.

Little Charley Bear is aimed at young children aged up to six years and features CGI animation by Annix Studios, based at Pinewood.

Greg Lynn, managing director of Chapman Entertainment said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with James Corden on our new imaginative and playful brand, Little Charley Bear.

"Not only is he an exceptional talent, but his voice is very warm and he creates great humour in every episode - there is a very fun relationship that exists between the narrator and Little Charley Bear."

Corden appeared in teen soap Hollyoaks but got his big TV break in 2000 when he landed a regular role in the ITV1 series Fat Friends, where he met Gavin And Stacey co-star Ruth Jones.

The actor, who played Smithy in the series, and Carey - a former TV producer who is now a charity worker - were introduced by his former flatmate, actor Dominic Cooper.

The pair appeared together in the stage and film version of Alan Bennett's play The History Boys.

Food *with Richard Coles*

email: rgcoles@me.com

I WAS rather surprised when my brother-in-law asked me if I'd like to take part in a post-Christmas slimming venture with him and his wife. Not, I hasten to add, because of any mis-conceptions about the need for myself to loose a couple of pounds, but because I would not have chalked down this mere streak of a man as over weight. Apparently, his doctor disagrees and the weight loss target is set.

I'm sure he and I are not alone in feeling the need to lose some weight following Christmas. For some, it's just an annual two weeks of fruit for lunch, whereas for others it's yet another time jumping on the wagon and clinging on as tight as possible until the next garage pasty or invitation to dinner knocks one off again.

So if you are one of those many who are fighting the inch war this January, can I give you some encouragement. Eat. Eat well.

It never ceases to amaze me - and I shall choose some generic words very carefully here - the plethora of processed food products including cakes, biscuits, fizzy drinks and even sweets that are available which claim to be in someway positive and constructive in diet. I'm sure we can all bring such ranges to mind. But I find myself asking exactly how good or beneficial - as the packaging often suggests in the strongest terms permitted - these are products for you.

For some, this packaging defines what a diet should be: a few weeks of pretending to replace high fat processed food with something better, although in reality replacing it with merely high sugar and high additive processed food which is slightly less satisfying. Folks then wonder why they feel physically empty and then fall back into former ways.

I am more than conscious this may sound very judgemental and elitist. I assure you it's not meant to be. This is not about to become a clarion call for everyone to run out to their local health shop and mass buy bulgar wheat! It's something more subtle than that. It is an encouragement to all of you out their who are trying to lose some many pounds in two weeks to actually consider losing the same in eight weeks by making smaller, sustainable changes to diet and lifestyle.

Make soup, eat fruit, eat more vegetables; but more over, ignore that cheesecake that promises to be good and occasionally enjoy the real, pure homemade thing in lesser quantities slightly less often. Cream, butter and sugar are not evil; they are simply to be controlled. A diet built around 'pretend' alternatives will never break a cycle; rather it will enforce it.

So, fellow, dieter - eat, and eat well! Slightly less of the real good stuff will pay you back in the long run.

SOMERSET
Farmers'
MARKETS
Crewkerne Farmers Market
Falkland Square
9am-1pm
The 3rd Saturday of the month
The next dates:
15th January, February 19th,
19th March
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weekenderservices

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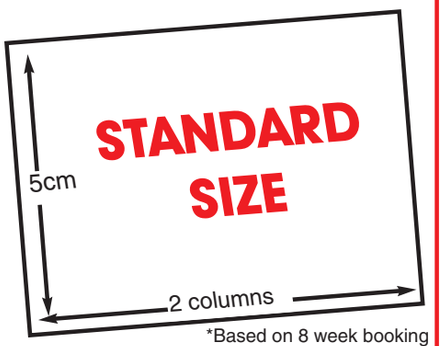

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Ferrari 458 Italia nominated the Daily Telegraph's car of the year

THE Ferrari 458 Italia has won a further coveted award, taking the Car of the Year title from a strong field of supercars in The Daily Telegraph's "Motoring" supplement, one of the UK's most respected automotive supplements. In declaring the 458 Italia the winner in the "Money No Object" category Paul Hudson, Head of Motoring at The Daily Telegraph, said: "The 458 Italia wins because of the pure driving pleasure it delivers – to drivers of all abilities. It flatters your driving while involving you fully in the experience. Despite its towering performance there are many faster cars, but the 458's astounding levels of tactility and refinement clinch it. It has almost telepathic steering, superbly linear major controls, looks (and sound) to die for. Hell, it's even comfortable."

The Daily Telegraph's "Money No Object Car of the Year" award follows on from a raft of several other awards for the 458 Italia including Car magazine's "Performance Car of the Year", Fifth Gear's"Fast Car of the Year", BBC Top Gear Magazine's "Supercar of the Year" and "Car of the Year", GQ Magazine's "Supercar of the Year", MSN Cars "Car of the Year", and Auto Express's "Performance Car of the Year".

The Ferrari 458 Italia was revealed at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September 2009 to immediate critical acclaim. Following an extensive international media test drive programme in Maranello, the home of the fabled Prancing Horse, the car has been the subject of enthusiastic reviews, with its handling, road-holding, ride comfort and performance all being subject to the kind of superlatives rarely seen from the world's leading journalists.

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Ilminster Skittles

NOMINATION League

Group One: Kings Head 265-10 (C.Payne, J.Shorting 41, C.Barrett 23) Wyndham Arms 251-2 (T.Merrison 49, W.Holland 23). Flying Turkeys 324-12 (A.Cox, D.Manley 46, M.Towill 27) Hatch Eggs 200-0 (G.Knight 37, S.Cregan 18).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Flying Turkeys	6	5	0	1	54
Hatch Beagles	5	4	0	1	45
Wyndham Arms	6	2	0	4	31
Kings Head	4	1	0	3	14
Hatch Eggs	5	1	0	4	12

Group Two: Royal Oak 195-1 (D.Lane 46, L.Prouse 8) Carnival Clingons 245-11 (S.Paull 55, A.Berry 8).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ashill Inn	5	5	0	0	52
Carnival Clingons	4	3	0	1	32
Donyatt BC	5	1	0	4	24
Royal Oak	5	2	0	3	23
Ashill Boys	6	1	0	5	13

Group Three: Bellclangers 176-1 (A.Lucas 41, T.Lucas 11) Royals 286-11 (P.Grabham 53, S.Elswood 22).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Royals	4	3	0	1	35
Nomads	3	3	0	0	32
Cricketers	5	2	0	3	27
Bell Clangers	4	0	0	4	2

Group Four:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Crown Faces	4	2	0	2	26
Bell A	3	2	0	1	22
Rockey's Rollers	4	2	0	2	22
Bell Broadway	3	1	0	2	14

Highest Nomination score: N.Jenkins (Crown Faces) 63.

◆ *All back matches to be played by January 20th - home captains must contact away captains to arrange.*

Chard Bowls club

VIC Barnard and Edwin Herrick, President and chairman of Chard Bowling Club respectively, would like to wish all members and friends of Chard Bowling Club a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

They would also like to remind members of the forthcoming events; a challenge match between the short mat and lawn green bowlers, the competitive rivalry between teams in the Milford & Dormor Afternoon Triples League, which the Greyhounds currently lead, fixtures in the East Devon League and our monthly Bingo, held in the club pavilion.

Windwhistle golf

Sunday Stapleford - January 2nd

AFTER the seasonal festivities and New Year celebrations Windwhistle Golf Club Men's Section held their first competition of 2011.

Twenty three braved the elements taking part in an 18 hole stapleford competition. The result was close with the top ten players separated by only nine points.

However, the clear winner was Lars Donohue with an excellent 42 points. P. Jennings was second, Will Bennett finished third and M. Corrick fourth. These players all attained a total of 37 points and were only separated by count back.

Congratulations go to all the winners. The club captain, Paul Fenton, would like to thank all those who took part and all that helped with the event. The winner of December's monthly raffle was Dave Clark. First Prize being a four ball at Knighton Heath Golf Club.

STREET SCENE

HOWARD LARCOMBE *reporting the Perry Street League*

Tigers pounce with four goal first-half super show

DIVISION ONE CUP FINAL

Crewkerne Town 4 Millwey Rise 2

(at Thorncombe FC)

FOUR goals in 16 first-half minutes effectively made the second-half a mere formality as the Crewkerne Town first team cruised to their first ever Division One cup triumph.

Opponents Millwey Rise showed plenty of grit after trooping off 4-0 down and deservedly struck twice late-on to give them something to show for their efforts on a bitterly cold afternoon.

On paper there appeared to be little between the sides. Both look well-set to mount a challenge to current Division One League leaders Winsham United.

Both sides traded half-chances in the opening 20 minutes with Tigers' Aaron Sweet being denied at the second attempt by Rise' 'keeper Steve O'Brien and Paul Gold who shot narrowly wide from 18-yards.

At the other end Sam Dibling burst through into the D but drifted his shot wide of the upright and Tigers' gloveman Dale Wood saved Mike Knight's low skidding free-kick.

The deadlock was broken in the 28th minute when Gold scrambled the ball home despite the best efforts of defender John Vaughn and the goal line after O'Brien had spilled an earlier effort.

Soon after Rise went close to leveled but Marc Jenkins' screwed a left footed poked effort wide when well placed.

Millwey were made to pay ten minutes before the interval when Crewkerne skipper Jamie Spurdle cut in from the left flank and drilled in a low cross which Vaughan unluckily diverted over the helpless O'Brien and into his own net.

It was 3-0 five minutes later when Gavin Charles floated a corner to the far post where centre-back Kevin Wheeler out jumped the Devonians' defenders and headed into the top corner for his sixth goal of the season.

The cup was secured on the stroke of the interval when Gold clipped home the pick of the goals with a measured drive that found the bottom corner. The striker then contrived to squander a golden chance to complete his hat-trick seconds later when he delayed his shot.

The second 45 saw the greasy Horseshoe Lane surface begin to cut-up disrupting the flow of the game.

Millwey did however come out clearly intent on playing for their pride. Wood made a fine double to save to deny youngster Nathan Wormesley and Adam Whitehouse beat the offside trap but fired his angled drive over the bar.

Wood then saved well from Knight after Rise' player-manager Shane Featherstone's shot had been charged down.

Midway through the half striker Barry Hayne, who had an otherwise quiet game, went close to adding number five after a mistake buy Vaughan but his chip came back off the crossbar.

Jenkins smashed a drive against the bar at the other end from close range in the 76th minute following good work from strike partner Dibling.

Millwey finally broke their duck in the 81st minute when a shot corner routine found it's way through the crowded six yard box to Matt Hall who drilled the ball home.

At the other end Charles' free-kick found Lee Banks but the towering centre-back's header was well saved by O'Brien at full stretch.

The scoring was rounded off with dense fog beginning to shroud the ground when Vaughan slotted home to reduce the arrears to 4-2.

Star men for the victors were Adam Dawe and Charles who won the vital central midfield battle. The top men for Rise were full-back Knight and skipper Hall.

Line-ups:

***Crewkerne Town**: Dale Wood, Dan Baker, Ashley Larcombe (Chris Welsh 33), Lee Banks, Kev Wheeler, Jamie Spurdle (captain), Aaron Sweet (Harry Charles 65), Gavin Charles, Adam Dawe, Barry Hayne, Paul Gold (Pete Lemmey 81).*

***Millwey Rise**: Steve O'Brien, Matt Lewsi (Haydn Lewis 55), Mike Knight, Matt Hall (captain), John Vaughan, Nathan Wormesley (Ashley Phillips 62), Shane Featherstone, Paul Otreba, Adam Whitehouse (Danny Larcombe 68), Marc Jenkins, Sam Dibling.*

Referee: Paul Spurrell, assistants; Grahame Rose and Kristian Rockett.

Rovers and Pethy set to gain ground

Tomorrow's preview

JOHN FOWLER SEMI'S

THE cup draw has pitted the two favourites against once another with Luso-Chard entertaining Misterton Reserves at Forton.

The other semi sees Drimpton and Winsham United Reserves put their relegation worries behind them. The West Dorset club have the best record of all in the 38-year-old competition with the now defunt Reseve team clocking up three wins and the first team one.

'Ill stick my neck out and predict a Missy v Winsh final.

PREMIER

WITH Beaminster still embroiled in County cup action rivals South Petherton and Merriott Rovers can gain ground at the top of the Premier Division tomorrow.

Even allowing for the prolonged Christmas lay-off caused by the disruptions to the fixture schedules both should have few difficulties in pouching three point hauls.

The other games see Ilminster travel to Lyme Regis with both teams still in with a chance of joining the leading pack.

Meanwhile Combe Reserves travel to Barrington still looking for their first win.

DIVISION ONE

PERHAPS the pick of the day's fixtures is at Baker's Field where Winsham United put their 100 per cent record on the line as they entertain fellow promotion chasers Millwey Rise.

Cup Winners

■ **NEW YEAR HONOURS:** Crewkerne Town lifted the first silverware in 2011 when they beat Millwey Rise 4-2 in the Division One Cup Final at Thorncombe on Monday. ***Photo by HOWARD LARCOMBE***

FIXTURES

Saturday, January 8th

DEVON INTERMEDIATE CUP

East Area Semi-final

Farway Utd v Exmouth Town Res

DORSET INTERMEDIATE CUP

Quarter-final replay

Beaminster v Ferndown Sports

JOHN FOWLER CUP SEMI-FINALS

Drimpton v Winsham Utd Res

Luso-Chard v Misterton Res

PREMIER DIVISION

Barrington v Combe Res

Lyme Regis v Ilminster Res

Perry Street v Merriott Rovers

S.Petherton v W & M Chinnock

DIVISION ONE

Ilminster Colts v Perry Street Res

Netherbury v Lyme Regis Res

Norton Ath v Forton Rangers

Thorncombe v Crewkerne Town

Winsham Utd v Millwey Rise

DIVISION TWO

Crewkerne Rangers v Hawkchurch Utd

Dowlish & Donyatt v S.Petherton Res

Forton Res v Chard Rangers

Hinton v Shepton Beauchamp

Uplyme v Beaminster Res

DIVISION THREE

Combe A v Chard United

Crewkerne Res v Lyme Bantams

Millwey Res v Farway Res

DIVISION FOUR

Chard Rangers Res v Barrington Res

Chard Utd Res v Thorncombe Res

Hawkchurch Res v Waytown Hounds

Shepton Res v Hinton Res

W & M Chinnock Res v Ilminster A

SEND YOUR CLUB NEWS TO howard@pemedia.co.uk

Weekender Sport puts Perry Street striker Stuart Packer...

ON THE SPOT **- see page 31**

Glovers In Focus

By Stuart Broom

New Year brings changes at Huish Park

THE New Year brought the opening of the transfer window once again and Yeovil Town spent no time in signing a new batch of loanees which they hope will help them climb out of the relegation zone.

It certainly appeared to have an effect with the Glovers earning a point at Home Park on New Year's Day and then taking all three with a Paul Huntingdon goal at Huish Park on Monday against M K Dons.

The points lift Yeovil to 22nd spot, but still six points from safety as other sides around them also picked up points, the worry is what position would they have been had they not picked up their first win since October 9th?

With Shaun McDonald and John Sullivan having both played their last games for the club on Monday, and Gavin Williams and Owain Tudor Jones since returned to their clubs, manager Terry Skiverton has been busy filling the gaps left by the loanees.

Wotton adds experience

The biggest capture must be the experienced Paul Wotton. The 33-year-old former Pilgrim who spent 13 years at Home Park made his debut for the Glovers on a month's loan from Southampton against Plymouth Argyle, and his leadership, energy and explosive shooting will be a great asset to Yeovil.

In contrast Max Ehmer, who will be 19 in February, was signed on a month's loan from Queens Park Rangers, and also made his debut at Plymouth. Although a midfielder the 6'2" German played alongside Huntingdon in the heart of the defence, and like Wotton had an outstanding match.

Sullivan's place between the sticks has been filled by Stephen Henderson who rejoined the club from Bristol City on Tuesday.

Henderson (22) who played eight games for the Glovers earlier in the season is finding life hard at Ashton Gate where he is currently behind David James and Dean Gherkin in the pecking order.

Another keeper to return to Huish Park is Richard Martin who made five first team appearances last season. Martin (23) rejoins on a short term contract.

There have also been changes in the management team with physio Simon Baker the latest to leave the club. It is reported he has 'left the club to explore new avenues in life that will afford him more time with his family'.

First team goalkeeper coach Ben Roberts left the club last week to join fellow npower League One side Charlton Athletic in a similar role.

He joined the club in the summer of 2009 and was named as substitute keeper on many occasions, but was called upon only once at home to Swindon in October.

He was replaced by another former Glover, Jon Sheffield who has joined initially on a temporary basis but it is hoped to make it permanent in the near future. Sheffield (41) joined Yeovil Town in 2001 where he vied with Chris Weale for the goalkeeping jersey. He left in 2004.

■ YEOVIL Town's fixture at Sheffield Wednesday which was postponed due the burst pipes at Hillsborough over the festive period has been rearranged for Tuesday January 25th (ko 7.45).

Boxing Day's postponed home match against Bretford has been rearranged for this Saturday (January 8th) with a 3pm kick-off, whilst a date for the other postponed home fixture against Carlisle on December 18th has yet to be announced.

CHANNEL 4 AT WINCANTON

WINCANTON Racecourse kicks off the New Year with a fine day's racing tomorr with the Higos Insurance sponsored raceday, which has attracted Channel 4 Racing coverage.

Gates open at 10.30am with the first race off at 1.15pm. The last race 4.05pm may split – potentially resulting in first race off at 12.45pm.

Wincanton, having lost both December fixtures to the snow, has already laid fleece covers to protect the track for the New Year meeting.

Barry Johnson, Wincanton's Clerk of the Course, explains: "Sadly the horseracing industry has been badly affected by the sub-zero temperatures – all eight Boxing Day meetings were lost in the big freeze. We covered Wincanton racecourse last Friday when -8 was predicted for Sunday night.

"Thankfully we're forecast a milder week - we'll look tomorrow or Thursday morning, depending on the forecast, to remove covers in advance."

RUGBY REVIEW

Chard look for big win

By **Keith Jenkin**

I DO not think I can remember a year where so little rugby was played during the month of December, and all local clubs are probably steeling themselves and trying to fit in their outstanding league fixtures.

(I see there is a revised list on the RFU website) I'll bet too that the ice put paid to most clubs' informal Boxing Day gallop about.

The league programme resumes on Saturday next (weather permitting of course) and let's hope we have seen the last of the snow and ice for the winter.

It was great however to get the news from down under that the Ashes had been retained on December 29th

PREVIEW

THE challenges that face the two local first sides on the first league Saturday of the new year could not be more different.

CHARD, competing at the top of the Somerset Premier Division as they are, entertain CHEW VALLEY, a side who are near the bottom.

I seem to remember that Chard came out on top by a considerable distance in the earlier fixture between the sides, scoring over seventy points without reply.

I take them to do so again and notch a comfortable bonus point win.

They will certainly need to do just that for their promotion rivals both have games that they should win.

CREWKERNE currently reside in the mid table of the Somerset League Division Two (South) and have a real tester first up, for they travel to league leaders CASTLE CARY who boast a one hundred per cent record in the league to date and hold a comfortable lead in the table.

They bested Crewkerne by some twenty points earlier in the season, at Henhayes, but I think that Crewkerne have improved since then. In all honesty I cannot see Crewkerne winning this one, but a losing bonus point would be nice, and is a distinct possibility.

The Chard second side travel to North Petherton seconds to renew their campaign. I see that they had a runaway win when they played this opposition at the Dening Field back in September.

I felt at the time that this result did not reflect the difference between the sides and this has been borne out by the fact that Petherton have had a useful season since then and lie in the division's fourth place, with Chard in the runners-up spot.

I do think that Chard will win this one, but only after a hard game.

Chard thirds lie in the mid table of division three and travel to Minehead Barbarians thirds, a side in a similar position.

Chard did win the home game, played at Crewkerne Road earlier in the season, but by just ten points; and they will therefore have to be at their best if they are to return from North Somerset with anything other than bruises.

In the end, success or failure may well depend on how abstemious or otherwise individuals have been over the holiday period.

Now that certainly is 'Food for thought'!

FIXTURES 8th January:

Chard v Chew Valley (home); Chard 2nd v North Petherton 2nd (away); Chard 3rd v Minehead Barbarians 3rd (away); Crewkerne v Castle Cary (away).

ON THE SPOT...

WEEKENDER SPORT PUTS PERRY STREET STRIKER **STUART PACKER,** UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Q How long have you been playing in the Perry Street League - ?

A I started playing in the Perry Street League about eight years ago. I had not played since leaving school and then a mate suggested joining Thorncombe. I have also had short spells at Chard United and Forton before joining my new club Perry Street.

Q Name the three best players you've played alongside.

A The best player I've played with is definitely **Lee Fisher**. We had some successful seasons at Thorncombe as strike partners. I now play along side **Kev Rowson** who I seem to be building a good strike partnership with. When I was at Chard United I played with a lad called **Harry Lemon** who was a very good centre back, He was always difficult to play against in training.

Q What are your hopes for Perry Street Reserves this season?

A I don't see why we can't be expecting to finish in the top four of the division one table at the least, hopefully a cup final would be possible too.

Q How would you improve things in the PSL?

A I think that it would be interesting to have the top team in the division get automatically promoted and the second and third teams have play-offs for the second promotion spot. It could get a decent amount of people watching - like a cup final does.

Q Who will finish in the top two this season? And who's for the drop?

A I think the top two will stay like it is now with Winsham and Crewkerne going up. As for the bottom Charmouth are definitely in trouble and I think that Ilminster Town Colts have struggled lately and could find it hard to stay up

Q Name some young Crewkerne Town players we should look out for in the future.

A Brad Cleal seems like a good young player and should get better as long as he doesn't take to much advice from his dad (Graham)!

NEXT WEEK: Ilminster Town manager Darren Manley.

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